

Unemployment Insurance Act

standing committee on industrial relations I had the privilege of attending the sitting. Through the courtesy of the committee I was permitted to submit a scheme which I had drawn up in an endeavour to extend to the fishermen the coverage of unemployment insurance benefits. The scheme I have just read, submitted by the federation of fishermen, and which I understand did not arrive in time to be considered by the committee, is very similar to the one I submitted. I believe that where there's a will there's a way; and I trust that by the pooling of our ideas we shall find a satisfactory solution to this problem. I know the minister will give every possible consideration to the recommendations the committee has made.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 18 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 19—*Advisory committee.*

Mrs. Fairclough: I wish to refer to clause 19, and also to clause 17 in the same regard, namely in connection with the appointment of women to both these bodies. I know this matter was discussed in committee, and that the recommendations of the committee mention the advisory committee. However, I wish once again to place on record my support of what was said in this connection. I trust that action will be taken without delay.

Mr. Gregg: Mr. Chairman, I shall reaffirm what I said in the standing committee, and that is that the commission and minister will do their utmost to have female representation on the advisory boards at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Knowles: May I add that there were some protests against this clause in that a change was made from the old act which seemed to have the effect of reducing the status of the advisory committee. For the record it should be pointed out that when we reach clause 67 it will be seen that there is an amendment which, in part at least, restores that status.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 25 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 26—*Regulations.*

Mr. Breton: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words about hospital employees. Under these regulations the employees of hospitals are excluded from the benefits of the act, except with the consent of the employer, when such hospitals are not operated for gain. I submit that all hospitals should be obliged to insure their employees, because there is no reason why persons working for hospitals should not receive the

[Mr. Carter.]

benefits of the law. I think this should be encouraged, in respect of a group of people who probably have the lowest salaries paid anywhere. It should be normal that they be protected by the unemployment insurance commission. That is the desire expressed by the Catholic syndicate in the province of Quebec, and I am glad to transmit the views of this organization to the House of Commons.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 27—*Excepted employment.*

Mrs. Fairclough: May I point out that clause 27(g) was the subject of some discussion in committee. At that time I moved an amendment, which was not accepted, and I intend to repeat the amendment now. I shall move that this clause be amended to include in the excepted employment classification, members of municipal fire fighting forces.

I do not think it is necessary to take up the time of the house in an extended argument. I have already referred to the matter in my remarks earlier today, as did one other hon. member. The situation is well known, and could be summarized briefly by stating that police and firemen are employed under similar conditions of employment. If anything, there is a greater degree of turnover in police ranks than in those of the fire-fighters. In any event the coverage is not of a permanent nature but would last for three years. The three-year coverage can be termed a tax on their employment rather than an actual protection against unemployment.

Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Queens:

That clause 27(g) be amended by adding thereto in line 27 the words "or as a member of the fire fighting forces of a municipality".

So that the clause would then read:

(g) employment as a member of the police forces of Canada, a province or a municipality; or as a member of the fire fighting forces of a municipality.

Mr. Gregg: There was a good deal of discussion on clause 27 (g) and an honest difference of opinion on the part of hon. members of the standing committee. It just happens that in addition to the brief which was sent to the committee and which was recorded in the minutes, the hon. member for Hamilton West and I—I was not a member of the committee but attended its meetings—were the only members who had personal representations made to us by the fire fighters. However, it was generally the opinion of the members of the committee that it would not